

2711GB

CLAIMS

1. A parking brake of the type described in which the backplate includes a viewing opening, , and the parking lever and said one brake shoe portion include datum surfaces visible through the viewing opening from which the position of the parking lever relative to said one brake shoe portion can be assessed, thus enabling verification that the cable is applying force to the parking lever when the parking brake is released and is therefore tensioned to a predetermined level.
2. A parking brake according to Claim 1 in which spring means act between the parking lever and said one brake shoe portion to tend to retract the parking lever to its retracted position.
3. A parking brake according to claim 1 or 2 in which a quick-attach facility is provided for connecting the cable to the parking lever, the viewing opening being located so that when the parking lever is released the position of an end nipple on the cable is visible allowing confirmation that the nipple is correctly connected with the parking lever.
4. A parking brake according to anyone of claims 1 to 3 in which the viewing opening has a removable cover to allow closing of the opening when the brake is in use.
5. A parking brake according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the datum surfaces are provided by an abutment on the parking lever designed to contact an edge of said one brake shoe portion when the parking lever is in its retracted position and the parking lever includes an aperture through which the position of said abutment relative to said edge is visible through the viewing opening.

6. A parking brake according to claim 5 in which the aperture allows the insertion of a measuring device (e.g. a feeler gauge) between the abutment and edge to check more accurately the position of the parking lever relative to said brake shoe portion.
7. A parking brake according to any one of claims 2 to 6 in which the spring means is a coil spring with end hooks which hook around the parking lever and said one brake shoe portion respectively.
8. A parking brake according to any one of claims 2 to 6 in which the spring means is a loop type spring with ends which act between abutments on the parking lever and said one brake shoe portion respectively.
9. A method of testing that the operating cable of a parking brake according to any one of claims 1 to 8 is adjusted within specified limits comprising:-
  - positioning the handbrake lever in a predetermined released position;
  - viewing (measuring) the spacing between datum surfaces through the viewing opening to establish that the parking lever is within a predetermined range of positions relative to said one brake shoe portion thereby indicating that with the parking brake released the cable is in tension and there is no cable slack between the handbrake lever and the parking lever.
10. A parking brake of the type described constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.